

Torreon Sister Cities program, Arte Americas, Fresno Metropolitan Rotary, and previously served as the state president of the Mexican American Political Association.

Betty Rodriguez has also been active in a number of community organizations, helping to found the League of Mexican American Women, and participating in Ladies Aid to Retarded Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Mexican-American Political Association, Friends of the Library, and countless other organizations. Despite her many commitments to the community, she has also been a devoted caretaker of the Rodriguez home throughout their 50 years of marriage and has been the behind the scenes leader keeping the family very close.

The key to Armando and Betty's 50 years together has been their undiminished love for each other and for those around them, and their shared and deep desire to contribute to the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Armando and Betty Rodriguez on celebrating their 50th year of marriage, and expressing our hope that they are blessed with many more joyous years together.

COMMENDATION OF MARIO CRUZ

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mario Cruz, a Victorville High School student, for his numerous and laudable achievements.

Mario's commitment to education is demonstrated by his perfect attendance record and excellent grades. His ability to excel in school is made all the more impressive when one takes into account the exclusive attention he gives to his home duties, while additionally helping to support himself through work and occupational training.

Despite losing both of his parents at a young age, Mario has remained positive in nature and dedicated to building a prosperous personal and community life. Mario's overwhelming triumph over difficult and challenging circumstances is both moving and inspiring.

Mario's long list of educational accomplishments include attaining excellent grades, being in the top 5% of his class, achieving perfect attendance, serving as a Junior Class Officer and Key Club Officer, attending after school occupational training, and summer school classes for extra credit.

Mario's decision to remain alcohol, tobacco, drug and gang free and his incalculable future potential serve as an invaluable and exemplary model of dedication, honesty, determination, strength of character and success for his community and peers.

Respected and well-liked by all teachers and peers alike, Mario Cruz embodies the finest qualities of America's youth.

Mario has also been fortunate enough to have the unwavering support of a group of Diamond Bar, Pomona, and Victorville residents and community leaders including Dr. Joseph Eiswert, D.M.D., who operates the Smilemakers dental practice; Christine Briggs,

the Executive Director for, United Way; Felix and Margaret Diaz; Lyle Henry; Mel Friedland, Esq.; Dorothy Harper, Esq.; John Clifford, Esq.; Marta Melendez of Catholic Charities; Sister Sharon Becker, Vice President, at St. Mary's Medical Center; Rhonda Morken, the Executive Director of One 2 One Mentors; Ronald Wilson, Chairman, President, and CEO of Desert Community Bank, DCB; Peter Schmidt, Vice President of UmLab; Eddie Cortez, Mayor of Pomona, Mike Radlovic 41st. Congressional District Bush Campaign, GOP Chair, and Lincoln Club President; Edda Gahm Diamond Bar Republican Woman's Club, Bush Campaign Chair; Diamond Bar Councilman Robert Huff; Carolyn Elfelt and Dr. York Lee, Walnut Valley Unified School District Board Members; Nancy J. Mc Cracken, Brenda Phyllis Engdahl, Pomona Unified School District; Nick Anis, Diamond Bar Sister City, President; Patricia Anis, Vice Chair Diamond Bar Parks and Recreation Commission; Gil Villavicencio, Owner, Whole Enchilada restaurant chain; and others.

These individuals have pledged their support for "Project Mario," an effort aimed at helping this promising high school junior complete his secondary education and continue on at a four-year college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Mario Cruz and extend to him this much deserved recognition for his courage of both heart and mind.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR TERESA P. HUGHES

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to California State Senator Teresa P. Hughes, who is retiring at the end of this year concluding more than a quarter of century in distinguished public service to the citizens of California. During her illustrious career in the California Assembly and Senate, Teresa Hughes has authored and/or co-authored hundreds of important legislative initiatives resulting in improved standards of living for the citizens of our great State. I am, therefore, proud to publicly commend her for her exemplary service and to share this retrospective of her exceptional career with my colleagues.

A native of New York City, Teresa Hughes received her bachelor of science in Physiology and Public Health and completed her graduate work in Sociology at Hunter College. She holds a master of arts in education administration from New York University, and earned a Ph.D. in education administration from the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, CA. She is married to physician Dr. Frank E. Staggers, and is the proud mother of attorney Vincent Hughes and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Deirdre Hughes.

Dr. Teresa Hughes was elected to the California State Assembly in a special election on June 17, 1975. Over the next 17 years she authored numerous legislative initiatives, including measures establishing the Hughes Earthquake Safety Act of 1987; the Hughes-Hart Education Reform Act of 1983; and the Conflict Resolution and School Violence Re-

duction Program. In addition, she successfully fought for increased funding for research grants into the causes of Lupus and high blood pressure, diseases that disproportionately impact the African-American community.

Owing largely to her keen leadership skills and legislative acumen, while serving in the Assembly she was selected by her peers to Chair the Committees on Education; Human Services; and Housing and Community Development. She served as the first chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, as well as the California Women Legislators Caucus.

In recognition of her distinguished contributions to public education, in 1988 the Los Angeles Unified School District honored then-Assemblywoman Hughes by renaming an elementary school in her name in the city of Cudahy, CA. The "Teresa Hughes Elementary School," thus stands as a fitting legacy to her longtime, public and personal commitment to ensuring quality education for California's school children.

For the past 6 years, State Senator Hughes has continued her strong advocacy for the citizens of California. Currently, she is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Employment and Retirement, and is a member of the Committees on Appropriations; Education; Energy, Utilities, and Communications; Government Organization; Health and Human Services; and Insurance.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 25 years, Teresa Hughes has selflessly committed herself to improving the human condition for the people of the great state of California. She has carved out an enviable legislative record, and leaves a legacy for every young person to emulate who aspires to a career in public service. I am proud to call her my friend and to single her out for this special recognition here today.

I have no doubt that she will continue to make contributions to our society, even as she prepares to set sail on a new course. On behalf of the citizens of my congressional district, I want to thank her for her service. I wish her and Frank, a future that is rich with good health and good fortune.

INS SHOULD NOT DEPORT THE MART FAMILY TO ROMANIA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a family that I have come to know very well in my time in Congress.

Julian and Veronica Mart and their children Paul and Adelina fled their homeland of Romania in the turmoil surrounding the downfall of communism. They came to the United States, like so many others before them, seeking its promise, and fleeing from a country where the freedom we cherish was unknown. They fled tyranny and persecution and wanted nothing more than to live out the American dream, to make a better life for themselves and their children.

When they entered America, Lady Liberty welcomed them to our shores—but the INS did not. The INS has done everything in its considerable powers to deny the Marts the opportunity to live the American dream. The INS

denied their application for political asylum, despite credible evidence that they faced retribution from the Romanian government if they returned home. And now INS bureaucrats have denied their application under the Diversity Visa program—on a technicality. The INS has done a great injustice to this family that must be made right. If it is not, the Marts may be deported.

The Marts have made a great impact on their community and have become well-loved by their friends and neighbors. I have here signatures from over 700 people who believe the Marts should be allowed to stay in the country. What is truly remarkable about this is that these signatures were gathered by teenage girls, friends of Adelina Mart who love her so much and believe so strongly in her cause that they have made this effort to help her.

Even the Honorable Robert Jones, a federal judge who heard the Marts' case against the INS, agrees that their treatment has been unjust. In handing down his opinion, he said, "The Marts are good people. They are highly intelligent, creative people. . . . And this is where they—in my view, this is the country where they belong. . . . The person was given the lottery opportunity, was denied that opportunity on a technicality, and it just isn't right in my opinion."

America has always been a city upon a hill and a light unto the world. And throughout our history America has welcomed those who have been driven from their homelands by hunger, government tyranny, religious persecution, and poverty. We must not allow this proud legacy to die. We must not drive away those whom we should welcome with open arms. We must not allow this injustice to stand. And we must not allow the INS to deport this family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 386 through 395. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 386, "yes" on rollcall vote 387, "yes" on rollcall vote 388, "yes" on rollcall vote 389, "yes" on rollcall vote 390, "yes" on rollcall vote 391, "yes" on rollcall vote 392, "yes" on rollcall vote 393, "no" on rollcall vote 394, and "yes" on rollcall vote 395.

THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES F. LEE

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the impending retirement of Charles F. Lee. After a distinguished career of public service to our nation, Chuck will retire from Federal service this week.

Chuck personifies the best of our Federal public servants. Personal qualities that include

unquestioned integrity, diligence and tenacity, thoughtfulness and thoroughness, a willingness to confront difficult and complex issues and a determination to establish both the facts and the truth together with a thoroughly professional demeanor describe Chuck Lee.

Chuck currently serves as the Democratic Counsel of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Chuck's contributions are indeed noteworthy, but they are just the capstone of a remarkable career. Chuck's service to the nation includes undertaking a wide range of demanding responsibilities. Highlights of his career include serving as the Assistant Director for Veterans' Benefits Programs for the Department of Veterans Affairs; counsel to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Executive Assistant to former Assistant Secretary of Labor Preston Taylor; and, a senior staff member of the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance. As a veteran who served in Vietnam, Chuck's public service career has been dedicated to assisting his fellow veterans.

Chuck joined the Democratic staff of the House Veterans Affairs Committee early last year and has made significant contributions to the work of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in a broad range of policy areas. We will miss his shrewd judgment, his thorough preparation and his sense of humor. Thank you, Chuck, for your high ideals and your dedication to America's veterans. We wish you only the best in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JAMES M. LINK OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Lieutenant General James M. Link is retiring after 33 years of exemplary service in the United States Army. He has served his country with dignity, honor, and integrity.

General Link was born in Columbus, Ohio, but grew up in North Carolina. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps in 1967 after completing undergraduate work at Methodist College and graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee. His military education includes the Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Methodist College and the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

A veteran of Vietnam and Desert Storm, General Link has held numerous command and staff positions leading to his current assignment as Deputy Commanding General, Army Materiel Command. Most recently, he was Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Materiel Command. Prior to that, he served as Commander, U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL. (now Aviation and Missile Command) from June 1994 to July 1997 and Deputy Commander, 21st Theater Army Area Com-

mand, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, from July 1993 to June 1994. From January 1992 to June 1993, he served as the MICOM Deputy Commanding General. He also served at MICOM from 1986 to 1989 as Director of Materiel Management Directorate in what is now the Integrated Materiel Management Center, and served as the Acting Director of this organization for eight months.

He has held various logistical and staff assignments. While Commander, 16th Corps Support Group, V Corps, Hanau, Germany, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of VII Corps during Operations Desert Shield and Storm. He was Deputy for Training Developments, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command; Chief, Ordnance Assignment Branch, MILPERCEN; Commander, 194th Maintenance Battalion, Camp Humphreys, Korea; and Department of the Army Staff Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics. In Vietnam, he served as Company Commander and Technical Supply Officer, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

General Link's awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the Senior Army Parachute Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant General Link deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he has faithfully served for so long. I know the members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife of 30 years, Judy and his daughter, Carey, all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING MARC AND JAY ELLIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two remarkable entrepreneurs, Marc Ellis and, his brother, Jay Ellis. Marc Ellis is the Chief Executive Officer, and Jay Ellis is the President of MyPinStripes.com, a Brooklyn based Internet business that is quickly becoming a premier Internet based valet service company. MyPinStripes.com focuses on communities that have traditionally been ignored by garment care and apparel service providers.

Marc and Jay Ellis were born to Joe and Katherine Ellis in Rockville Center, Long Island. Marc, born in August 1970, is married to Gardy Ellis and has three children: Marc 11, Kathleen and Sydney. Marc graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in Queens, New York in 1988, and earned a BA in Finance from Morehouse College in 1992. After graduating from Morehouse, Marc went on to earn two MBAs, one in Finance and the other in Marketing, from New York University Stern School of Business. Before founding MyPinStripes.com, Marc worked in corporate and investment banking with two of the largest banking institutions in the United States.

Jay Ellis, the younger of the brothers, was born in November 1972. Jay graduated from